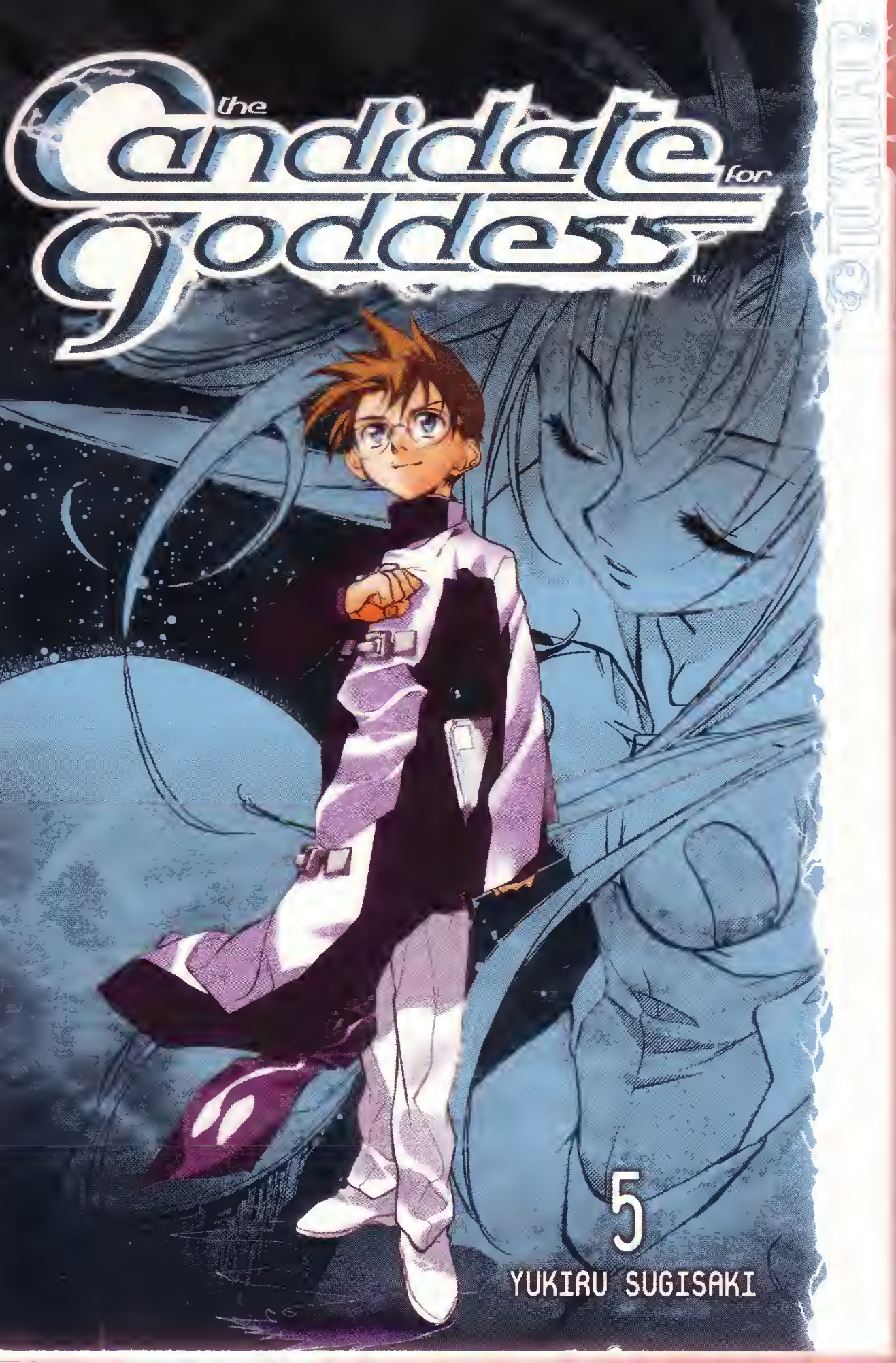
the Candidate for Goddess
5
YUKIRU SUGISAKI

THE CANDIDATE FOR GODDESS

05

YUKIRU SUGISAKI

2001

The Candidate for Goddess™

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VOL. 5

BY
YUKIRU SUGISAKI

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

The Candidate For Goddess Vol. 5
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KIZNA TOWRYK

Age: 5 Blood type: OK 54cm 7kg

The personal speaker for the prodigy Ingrid Zero Glicks. Kizna wants to be Zero's equal, and not inferior to him. Sometimes Kizna talks like a man, but because of her emotional personality, the other mechanic girls in her class look up to her. She has a dexterous fingers and makes excellent mechanic. She really likes sweet things.

TEELA ZAIN ELMES

Age: 15 Blood type: EO. 158cm, 42kg

The best of the five Goddesses and the only female pilot. Faithful to her task, Teela's fighting ability is frighteningly high. Nearly flawless, there are times when no one quite knows what she's thinking. Seeking perfection, she won't let herself feel the emotions of daily life. Her outward appearance has hardly changed since she saved the ten-year-old Zero, but no one knows why. Always the top of the pilots, Teela has two EX. One is the same ability as Zero's. The other...

ERTS VIRNY COCTEAU

Age: H Blood type: [illegible] 156cm, 47kg

Orphaned very young and forced to enter the G.O.A., Erts is gentle and doesn't like to fight. His grades are very good. Erts is Zero's friend.

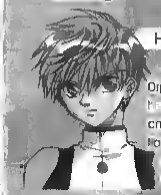
CLAY CLIFF FORTRAN

Age: 5, Blood type: ER, 139cm, 33kg

The class brain. Clay came to the G.O.A. not to be a pilot but to study and theorize. Interested in many different subjects. His catch phrase is "Very interesting."

HIEAD ONER

Age: 15 Blood type: EO. 165cm, 52kg



Orphaned in the war and forced to suffer many hardships. He is [illegible] strong. Kind for anyone he is with in combat. Cold and seemingly emotionless, he doesn't trust anyone or anything, especially Zero. These five is share the same EXabilities.

ZERO ENNA

Age: 15 Blood type: ER, 156cm, 49kg

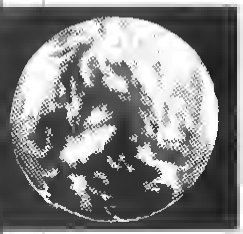
Zero lost his father when he was very young and was raised by his mother on a remote colony. Cheerful and optimistic to the extreme, Zero hides his fears and refuses to ever be depressed. His straightforward and optimistic personality sometimes gives on others. A bit thickheaded, he's not the smartest candidate, but he can move with the best of them. His piloting abilities are like a carbon that hasn't yet been formed into a diamond-Zero hasn't yet mastered his EX.

The entrance requirement
for
G.O.A.
1
male, in good health, 14-16yrs
2
of the blood group: unadulterated EO
3
having (potentially) specific ability called EX

The term of training is completed in three years

G.O.A

The Candidates
CAREAS ELIOD
Age 17 Blood type EO, 178cm, 65kg
Ingrid EEVA LEENA
Reactor LEENA FUJIMURA [Age 16, Blood type AA]
Number 2 of the five Goddesses he is in charge of attacking. When he's in the right mood Careas has matchless strength, when he's not the can't hit the broad side of a barn. He doesn't like Teele (since she took his position as top pilot). Strong, quick tempered, and violent, he has a nasty way of speaking and acting, and is constantly ignoring others.
Careas is a womanizer who is always competing with Ri. The oldest of the pilots he has a relatively strong build. Despite their vast differences Careas is good friends with Ernest
RIGROUTE VILGYNA
Age 17 Blood type EO, 68cm, 57kg
Ingrid AGUI KEAMEIA
Mechanic PHILHILGORA DEBB [Age 5, Blood type BX]
He is submissive and kind to everyone but he has a complicated side that, while appearing lonely, likes his solitude. With his polite, careful way of speak ing Ernest is always the mediator. If something bad happens between the Candidates, his EX is telepathy which has caused a hard time for him when associating with others. But after meeting Cer at G.O.A. he started to look at things positively. Ernest dislikes his EX and often wonders why he has it. In battle he uses his EX to support the Ingrids so they can fight with 120% of their power, as well as being in charge of operations.
ERNEST CUORE
Age 17, Blood type BB, 178cm, 59kg
Ingrid LUHMA KLEIN
Mechanic TUNS YOUG [Age 17, Blood type AB
He's quiet and usually emotionless but Yu is quite strong willed. Like Ca he is also in charge of attack ing. Because of his calm judgment the other pilots have great trust in him his skills are also top notch. He has a small young face and light com plexion, and has a small build. There are rumors to the effect that, while enrolled in G.O.A., he nearly killed his instruc tor. When his home colony was attacked by Giselsha, he and his sister Kazuki were rescued by the previous five Goddesses. To him, the most precious thing is his only family, his little siste
YU HIKURA
Age 15, Blood type EO, 156cm, 49kg
Ingrid TELLIA KALUSTO
Mechanic KAZUKIHIKURA [Age15, Blood type BX]



ZION

THE DETAILS OF THE FOUNDING OF G.O.A.

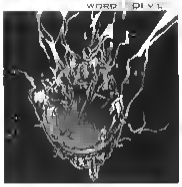
STARLOG 4986, DUE TO THE "CPIES OF STETEMS (LOST PROPERTY)", WHICH INVOLVED FOUR STAR STETEMS, WE, MANKIND, HAVING LOST THE PLANETS ON WHICH WE LIVED, ESCAPED TO SPACE. HENCEFORTH, TO THIS DAY, WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO LIVE IN SPACE COLONIES.

OUR LAST HOPE, THE PLANET ZION, REMAINS; BUT THE UNIDENTIFIED BEINGS, "GISEISHA," CAST A DARK SHADOW OVER THAT HOPE.

MANKIND CONCENTRATED ALL ITS EFFORTS INTO BUILDING THE GIANT HUMANOID WEAPONS, INSERIES (GODDESSES)," WHICH WE USE TO FIGHT THE GISEISHA. BUT ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE MET THE UNUSUALLY STRICT REQUIREMENTS CAN BECOME PILOTS OF THE GODDESSES. SO, TO FIND AND TRAIN THOSE FEW PEOPLE OUT OF THE MANY APPLICANTS TO BECOME A PILOTS, G.O.A. (GODDESS OPERATOR ACADEMY) WAS ESTABLISHED.

ZION IS THE LAST PLANET OUR LAST REMAINING HOPE. ALL MANKIND WISHES TO REMAIN SET FOOT ON THAT PLANET. FURTHERMORE, AP ALL INFORMATION IS THOROUGHLY CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT. VERY LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT EVEN. BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT ZION IP TO UR THE ONE AND ONLY "PROMISED LAND"

BELOW IS THE FORM IT WAS WHEN IT ATTACKED STAR PITCH 21 NN DISTRICT) 28 IN 3025. IT WAS SO ENORMOUP IT COVERED AN ENTIRE PLANET. WHEN VIEWED FROM SPACE, ITS SHAPE IS REMINISCENT OF ONLY ONE WORD: "DEVIL".



ABOVE IP THE FORM THAT ATTACKED G.O.A. AS IT WAS EPLOSING THE SURROUNDING PPACE NEAR ZION IN 3030. IT IP SMALLER IN PENPACE BEN, BUT AS A RESULT OF ITS TERRIBLE FIGHTING POWER, THE DESIGNER, AKIO KEAMEKA, MANIPULATIVE WAS RESTPOYED.

THE ENEMY: GISEISHA

GISEISHA IS THE GENERAL TERM USED FOR THE MYSTERIOUS LIFE FORMS THAT HAVE ATTACKED US. AS THEIR CONSTITUTION, SHAPE, AND ABILITIES VARY, THEIR TRUE NATURE IS COMPLETELY UNKNOWN. AS THEY MAKE REPEATED INVASIONS ON ZION AND ATTACK OUR COLONIES THAT ARE ON THEIR WAY TO THE LAST PLANET, THERE IS NO DOUBT THEY ARE MANKIND'S GREATEST ENEMY. WHY THEIR GOAL IS ZION, WHY THEY ARE ATTACKING OUR PEOPLE, EVEN THE REASONS FOR THEIR ACTIONS ARE UNKNOWN. BUT, SINCE THE FIRST CONFIRMED SIGHTING HAPPENED AFTER THE CRISIS OF STETENS, IT IS SAID THAT THEY MAY BE A CONSEQUENCE OF THAT EVENT.

WELCOME, EVERYONE.

THIS IS G.O.A. (GODDESS OPERATOR ACADEMY), THE FACILITY FOR TRAINING PILOTS WHO WILL OPERATE THE GIANT HUMANOID WEAPONS, INSERIES, KNOWN AS GODDESSES. G.O.A. WITH YOUR RARE HIDDEN ABILITIES, WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU WILL BE ACTING IN A POSITION THAT WILL AFFECT THE FUTURE OF ALL MANKIND. LET US ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ALL OF YOU, WHO HAVE CLEARED THE FOLLOWING STRICT CONDITIONS, HAVE BEEN ADMITTED INTO G.O.A. AS PILOT CANDIDATES!

1
TO BE A HEALTHY MALE OF 14-16 YEARS OF AGE.
2
TO BE OF THE BLOOD-TYPE UNADULTERATED EO
3
TO HAVE A SPECIAL ABILITY (EX) OR
TO HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO HAVE IT.

Eyes Only

YOU WILL BE ENROLLED FOR THREE YEARS.
THE TRAINING IS EXTREMELY HARSH, AND MANY OF YOU WILL PROBABLY DROP OUT.
FURTHERMORE, EVEN IF YOU PASS THE TRAINING, THERE MAY BE NO VACANCY AMONG THE CURRENT PILOTS (DUE TO DEATH OR RETIREMENT BECAUSE OF DEGENERATION OF EX). WHILE YOU ARE ENROLLED, THE CHANCES OF BEING CHOSEN AS A PILOT ARE EXTREMELY LOW.
HOWEVER,
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU DISPLAY ABILITIES SUPERIOR TO THOSE OF THE CURRENT PILOTS WHILE YOU ARE ENROLLED, THE ROAD TO BECOMING A PILOT WILL OPEN FOR YOU.
WE WANT YOU TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELVES, BE DILIGENT IN YOUR TRAINING, AND WIN THE POSITION OF PILOT.
IF YOU HAVE DIRECTION AND AMBITION, WE HAVE NO PROBLEMS HELPING YOU.
WE WILL GIVE YOU THE KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNIQUES NECESSARY TO BE A PILOT.
WE HAVE BUT ONE ENEMY: A GROUP OF UNIDENTIFIED LIFE FORMS WE CALL GISEISHA.
IN THIS BATTLE TO PROTECT THE PLANET ZION, WE, THE LAST OF MANKIND, WILL TAKE NO OTHER PATH THAN VICTORY.
FAILURE IS UNACCEPTABLE.
IN THE BATTLEFIELD, THERE EXISTS ONLY ONE POSSIBLE RESULT.
NAMELY, YOU WIN, OR YOU LOSE.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO TELL YOU WHICH ONE TO CHOOSE.
THE FUTURE OF THIS BATTLE RESTS ON THOSE WHO HAVE JUST BECOME PILOT CANDIDATES—YES, YOU.

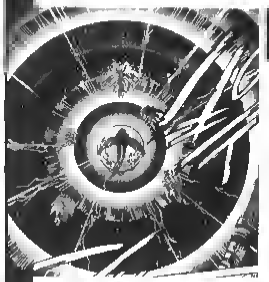
YOUR NUMBER IS...

(EXCERPT FROM THE HANDBOOK FOR NEW STUDENTS)

WHAT ARE THE GODDESSES?

The Ingrids are giant humanoid weapons dedicated to protect Zion from the Gibeisha. Ultimate war machines... only five of them exist. As they are all built in the form of women, they all have feminine names. Nicknamed "The Five Goddesses," they are elegant and magnificent in battle. They continue to fight the Gibeisha through generations of pilots.

5	4	3	2	1	
LUHMA KLEIN The Ingrid in charge of detection and analysis. Piloted by Rinket Gueise. She can detect the enemy and transmit tactical data to her team.	AGUI KEAMEIA The Ingrid in charge of defense. Skilled at using Vilirya. Her pain spreads a strong resilience to be blue.	TEL A KALLISTO An Ingrid in charge of attack. Piloted by Yu Hikura. Power is very important to her. Has the special ability in attacking a beauty.	EEVA LEENA An Ingrid in charge of attack. Piloted by Sabeah Elliot. She has several guns for its universal use.	ERNH LATIES The Ingrid piloted by Tel-A Zair Elmes. Putting them in order, she is the top of all the Goddesses.	Basic information about the five Goddesses.



BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE FIVE GODDESSES!

The Five Goddesses always fight together as a team. This way, each Goddess has a specific role, and by combining these roles, they can work to their full potential. Currently, the established pattern is: Luhma Klein finds and analyzes the enemy and signals the others. Agui Keameia sets up the shield, and then Ernn Laties, Eeva Leena and Tellia Kallisto attack and destroy the enemy.

The system is basically one pilot (must be male), one repairer (must be female), and one Ingrid that has been adjusted specifically for the pilot, all put together and used as one set.

The possibility of becoming a pilot is limited to those who, of the four blood types (AA, AB, OX, and EO), have type EO (an extremely rare type), and whose EX is awakened between the ages of fourteen and sixteen.

This is a picture of the five Goddesses in Eden as they receive the Gibeisha attacker to Bilony K-II in the 21HH system. Bilony I-III... at this time because the Gibeisha did not engage the Goddesses directly. The battle went more smoothly than a simulation attack in which all the Goddesses must cooperate.

GODDESS PILOT
PILOT VACANCY
(Death regeneration or super or ability)
G.O.A
(Till 1 year enrollment with graduation. Those who do not use voting and vaccine qualify)
APTITUDE
(Only age 14-15 has EX)
ALL COLONIES

This diagram is a simplified version of the actual system.

G.O.A.'S SYSTEM:

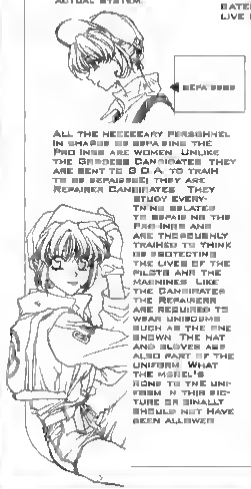
The term of enrollment at G.O.A. is three years. During that time, the candidates live inside the spaceship. All the facilities needed to train a lot are contained within the G.O.A. spacecraft.

The training is extremely fierce and dropouts are not uncommon. But even if the students make it through all three years, there's no guarantee they will become pilots. One of the current pilots must stop being able to pilot (due to death or degeneration or EX) or the candidate must show abilities superior to those of a current pilot. For a candidate to become a pilot, those are the only two paths.

For the three-year enrollment, G.O.A. has put together various curricula.

In lecture, everything about G.O.A., the Ingrids etc. is thoroughly drilled into the students, starting with the basics. When new candidates are enrolled, the limits of their physical abilities are checked and their training programs for their free hours are adjusted accordingly.

Furthermore, while inside G.O.A., all the candidates' EX are neutralized to a degree so they can live normal lives.

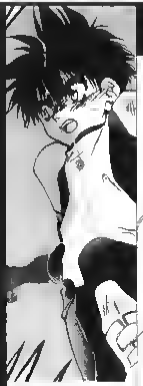


All the necessary personnel in charge of repairing the Pro-Ingrids are women. Unlike the Goddesses candidates, they are sent to G.O.A. to train to be repairers. However, they are Repairer Candidates. They study everything related to repairing the Pro-Ingrids and are thoroughly trained to think of protecting the lives of the pilots and the machines like the Candidates. The Repairer are required to wear uniforms as the one shown. The hat and gloves are also part of the uniform. What the model's gone to the uniform in this picture is finally should not have been allowed.

The Repairer Candidates are recognized to wear uniforms like the one shown on the right. As it is the manual wear for all the Candidates they wear it under all circumstances except training. As one from the first, they have a belt but when only we in their privacy is seen. And for special occasions they take have a special jacket used for special events and such.

ABOUT THE UNIFORMS:

Not only the candidates, but everyone in G.O.A. is required to wear a uniform. If you think of the most denrelt populated part of G.O.A. as a school, you could say that that is obvious. Furthermore, since cleanliness is also a requirement for pilots, long hair is forbidden.



THE EQUIPMENT OF THE PILOT

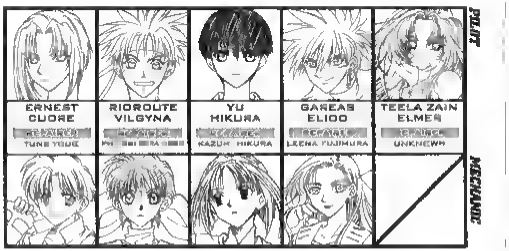
INGRID SUIT
THE SUITS USED SPECIFICALLY BY THE PILOTS THEY DIFFER IN STYLE, BUT THEY ARE ALL BASICALLY MADE THE SAME WAY. THEY WEAR EXTRA LAYERS ON TOP OF THE UNDERPART, BUT THE MEMBERS OF EXPLOSIVE IS STILL RARELY USED. THIS IS BECAUSE THE ACCURACY OF BEAM-TYPE ARMS REPRESENTING THE PILOT'S MOVEMENTS IS MUCH HIGHER WHEN TAKEN FROM SAME BRAIN. THE UNDERPART AND THE SUIT ARE BOTH MADE OF SOFT YET STURDY MATERIAL.

Z BRIM
THE SPECIAL MEMBRANE [illegible] AND THE CORRUPTION [illegible] NORMALLY BLUE IN COLOR [illegible] A DIFFERENT SUBJECT [illegible] THE SCRIPT OR [illegible] MOVEMENTS ARE [illegible] NORMAL, THERE IS A LOT [illegible] NO SE WHEN THE PILOT [illegible] UNCONSCIOUS, TURNS RED. [illegible] THE SUIT IS TORN [illegible] RISK OF DEATH. IT [illegible] THIS IS DIFFERENT [illegible] WHEN THE ARMOR IS [illegible] THE TAIL AND THE [illegible] CRICKET PANEL [illegible] TURNS TO PURPLE [illegible] HAS THE EFFECT OF [illegible] QUICK ABSORPTION [illegible] WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE [illegible] PUTTING YOUR HAND IN [illegible] UNDERWATER

STANDARD EQUIPMENT OF THE FIVE GODDESS PILOTS

UNLIKE NORMAL SPACECRAFT, THE INGRIDS EMPLOY A CONTROL SYSTEM THAT DIRECTLY READS THE THOUGHTS AND MOVEMENTS OF THE PILOTS. IT'S THE SAME SYSTEM USED IN THE FAD [illegible], BUT THE PRECISION, FEEDBACK, AND OTHER SUCH ATTRIBUTES OF THE INGRIDS ARE SO MUCH BETTER THAT THE SYSTEMS CAN'T BE COMPARED. BUT IN ORDER TO BRING OUT THAT HIGH POWER, SPECIAL EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED FOR EACH INGRID. HERE, WE WILL INTRODUCE EACH PIECE OF INGRID EQUIPMENT.

SCANNER
THE MECHANISM THAT READS THE PILOT'S BRAINWAVES AND CONNECTS THEM DIRECTLY TO THE INGRID. IT COULD BE COMPARED TO A SECOND BRAIN, AND, TO AN EXTENT, IT CAN SAVE THE PILOT'S PHYSICAL CONDITION AND EMOTIONS. FLOATING TWO CENTIMETERS ABOVE THE EARS AND JUST ABOVE THE TEMPLES, IT CAN FUNCTION EVEN IF THERE IS SOMETHING BETWEEN IT AND THE HEAD. IT ALSO ROTATES AROUND THE HEAD.



G-OA

MISSION 20 GOOD LUCK
THEY THROW AWAY THE PARTS THAT HAVE BECOME USELESS
...AND REPLACE THEM WITH SOMETHING ELSE
LIKE US.
LIKE US.

MISSION 20 GOOD LUCK 017
MISSION 21 REQUIEM 043
MISSION 22 JUST CONDITION 069
MISSION 23 OMEN 093
MISSION 24 DECOY 107
MISSION 25 I'LL REMEMBER FOREVER. 133

OUTLINE OF STORY

It is the year A.C. 5090. Almost a thousand years ago, the Geid of Systems called known as Lost Property destroyed four entire planetary systems and forced mankind to live in artificial colonies in the vastness of empty space. Mankind's last hope is the one Sema nine planet Zieg, but this planet is also being targeted by unknown when he calls the 2 nd Sha (a.k.a. the Victim) to battle the Gideona. Mankind created five giant humanoid weapons (aces known as Goddesses). But the pilots must meet special requirements (male, in good health between 15 sixteen years old, blood type A; potentially having the special ability otherwise known as EX). G.O.A. (Goddess Operation Academy) was established as a facility to train these pilots, and the synthesize have come to be known as Candidates for Goddess.

Two of the newest Candidates are Zero Enna and Mikaa Shea. While Zero trainee with Nonperishable-man Eats. Virny Guetsan. He has suddenly forced him a war in and started a fight with Zero. Instruction Azuma learned of this and put both boys in the "self-exam nation" room. Despite their shared punishment, the rivalry between them seems only to have grown stronger.

Meanwhile, Repairer Tune Yone tried to confess her secret love to Goddess pilot Ernest Dubek, but they were interrupted by an extremely large Gideona invasion. As Ernest and the other pilots raced to confront the enemy, several pilot candidates were also chosen to act as a last line of defense outside G.O.A. When to his dismay, Zero was not one of them.

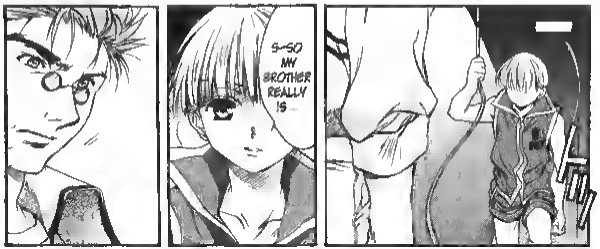
The five Goddesses fought a difficult battle against the vast number of Gideona. When pilot Sareas

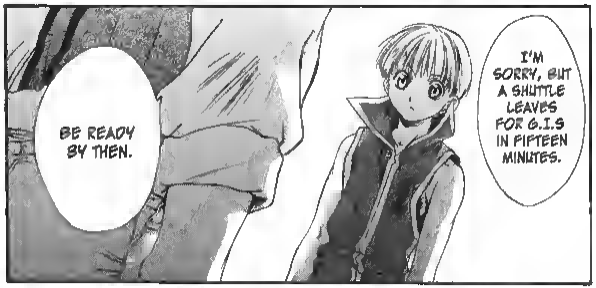
Mortally wounded, Ernest reaame locked in a death grip with the Gideona leader. In order to destroy the leader, Sareas was forced to kill his friend as well. Distraught by the death of his teammate, Sareas ignored the order to retreat and Goddess leader Teela was forced to take command of Sar's Goddess.

Though Ernest was killed in the battle, his Goddess, Luhma Klein was salvageable. Luhma was returned to G.O.A. for repairs and a new pilot. The repairs were handled by an emotionally wrecked Tune Yone. The Candidate reinstated to pilot was Enna.

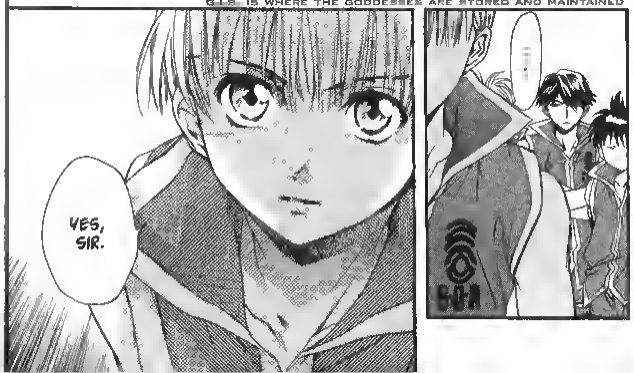
Though every Candidate works to one day become a pilot, promotion due to the death of a pilot is a somber occasion. It's even more so when it turns out that the Candidate and the Pilot in question are actually brothers...

...THROWN AWAY ALL THOSE EMOTIONS LONG AGO
I THOUGHT I HAD...
...CONTINUE TO PLAGUE ME? IT WON'T GO AWAY... I CAN'T FORGET IT
...THIS DULL PAIN IN MY CHEST...
SO WHY DOES THIS PAIN...
IT HAPPENS AGAIN AND AGAIN.

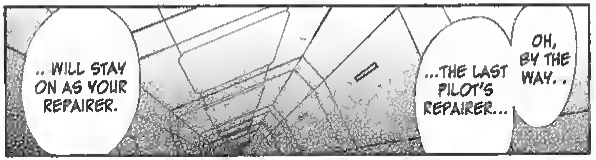


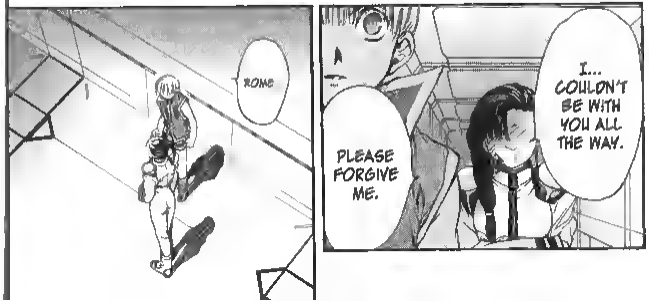


G.I.S. IS WHERE THE GODDESSES ARE STORED AND MAINTAINED



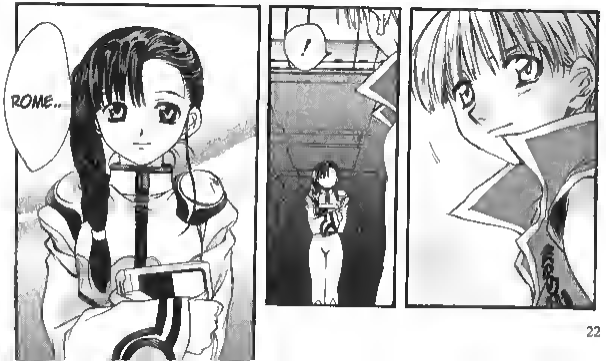
I'VE DELETED YOUR G.O.A. NUMBER.
FROM NOW ON...
...YOUR PILOT DATA WILL BE KEPT IN G.I.S.


.. WILL STAY ON AS YOUR REPAIRER.
...THE LAST PILOT'S REPAIRER...
OH, BY THE WAY..


ROME
I... COULDN'T BE WITH YOU ALL THE WAY.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

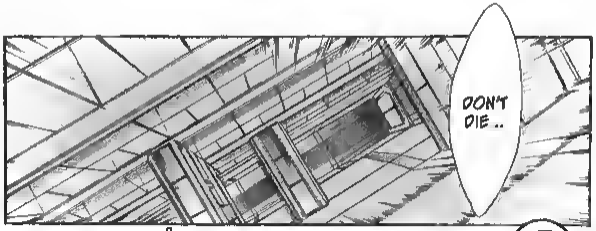
AH.

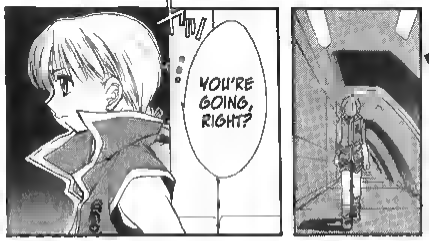
GOOD LUCK!
DON'T DIE!
CAN'T BE HELPED.
FIGURES
WELL, I KNEW IT WOULD HAPPEN

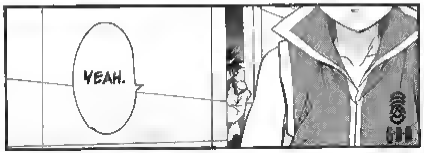

ROME..
!

BUT NOW...
.. MY ROLE IS OVER.
I WOULD SEND YOU...
...WHERE YOU TRULY WANTED TO GO.
THANK YOU, ROME.

...I CAN'T LIVE AS LONG AS YOU PILOTS. YOU KNEW THAT...
I... ACCORDING TO MY REPAIRER ZML PHYSICAL ...
...CHOSE ME AS YOUR PARTNER
...BUT YOU STILL...
...SO YOU COULD BE JUST LIKE YOUR BROTHER.
THAT I'D DO WHATEVER IT TAKES..
I WAS SO HAPPY.
I PROMISED MYSELF I WOULD MAKE YOU A PILOT FOR SURE.


DON'T DIE..


YOU'RE GOING, RIGHT?


YEAH.

I'LL HELP.

I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU.

I REALLY...
...DON'T READ MY THOUGHTS NOW.
PLEASE
I'M HONORED
I REALLY WANTED...
GOOD LUCK
..I REALLY WANTED TO BE WITH YOU FOREVER.

I'M GOING TO COME TOO, YOU KNOW.
I KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I'M GOING TO BE A PILOT.
I CAN DO IT!
YOU WAIT FOR ME!! I'LL BE RIGHT BENIND YOU!!
WHENEVER I TALK TO YOU...
WAIT FOR ME!!
...YOUR WORDS NEVER HAVE ANY LIES OR FALSEHOODS
MY BROTHER'S VOICE...
...I HEARD HIS THOUGHTS
HE SAID..
..."SPIN HOPE."
ERTS ...
YOU'RE NOT SCARED OF FIGHTING ANYMORE, ARE YOU?
LUHMA KLEIN'S FORMER PILOT...
...ERNEST CUORE. HE'S MY BROTHER
NOW IT'S MY TURN TO CARRY ON HIS WILL AND FIGHT.
BROTHER?

ERTS.
TAKE CARE.
!
SCHOOL HYMN!
IN UNISON!!
...TOP INSTRUCTOR AZUMA.
THANK YOU...
RIGHT..
...NII-SAN?
SHW SHW SHW
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M FIGHTING ALONE.
NIISAN: A TERM FOR "OLDER BROTHER."
AND...
...I'VE FOUND MY SUPPORT HERE.
THE SUPPORT OF A HEART THAT CALLS ITSELF MY FRIEND
I'M SURE AS ALWAYS, YOU'LL CONTINUE TO LOOK AHEAD.

NOIR 21 REQUIEM

ERNEST CHORE HAD AN HONORABLE SPIRIT.
AND THOUGH HE WAS UNABLE TO SET FOOT ON ZION, THE PLANET OF OUR HOPE...
...HIS DEATH WAS TRULY NOBLE.

CAN YOU HEAR ME?
ERNEST-SAN.
I STILL HEARD...YOUR VOICE.
I STILL...
WHEN I LOST YOU...

LET'S HAVE A MOMENT OF SILENCE
THIS IS OUR FINAL PARTING WITH HIM.
...I NEVER...
ERNEST...
...THE ONE YOU REMEMBERED IN THE END..
...THAT ...
I'LL ALWAYS BELIEVE...
THAT
...WAS ME.

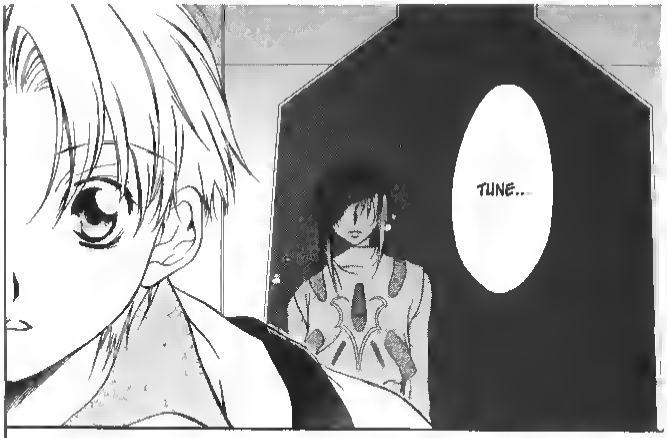
GOODBYE...
...ERNEST-SAN.

...I...
...ERNEST-SAN, THAT..
I NEVER... WAS ABLE TO TELL YOU...
...LOVED ...
...YOU.

THEY'RE WORKING TOGETHER, CHOOSING A NEW LEADER.
THEY'RE CREATING AN INFORMATION NETWORK, COMMUNICATING THROUGH EACH OTHERS' LIFE PULSE.
THE GISEISHA ARE STILL DORMANT.
AND IF THEY START MOVING AGAIN, THERE'S GOING TO BE TROUBLE.
WE'RE NOW OUT OF TIME.
THEIR SIGNALS ARE FOCUSING ON ONE POINT!
WORSE THAN THAT. THEIR NERVOUS SYSTEMS ARE INTERFACING THEY'RE GOING TO MERGE INTO THEIR MOST POWERFUL BODY.
LEAVE LUHMA KLEIN! ALL INGRIDS THAT CAN MOVE TO BATTLE!

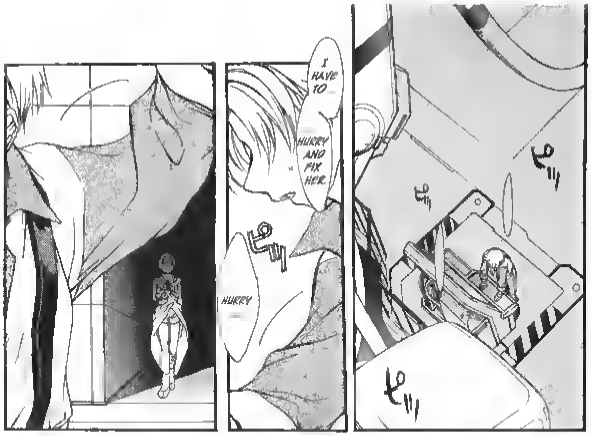
GOODBYE...

THE GISEISHA CALL THEM-SELVES THE VICTIM.
SO LET'S MAKE THEM VICTIMS! FOCUS ON ATTACKING!!
THIS ONE'S FOR ERNEST!
TEELA, I'LL SPREAD THE SHIELD AS FAR AS IT'LL GO!!

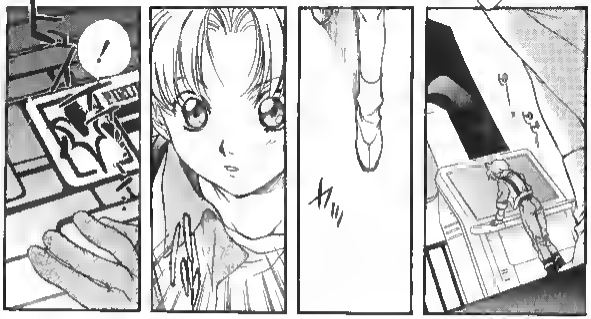

TUNE...

TUNE-SAN...
RIGHT?

I'M ERTS VIRNY COCTEAU.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

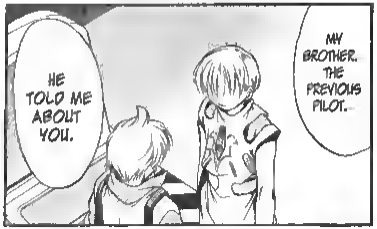

I HAVE TO
HURRY AND FIX HER.
HURRY

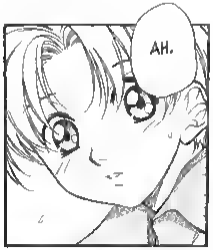
HURRY...

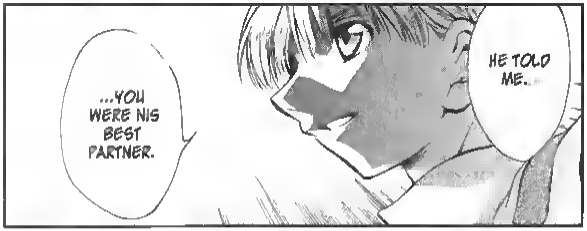

!

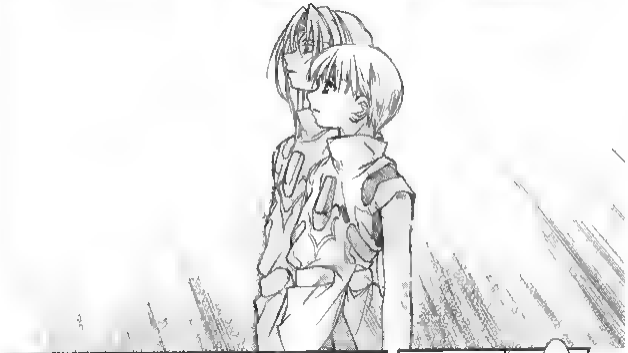
MY BROTHER RODE THIS INGRID

.....

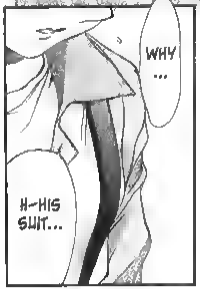

HE TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.
MY BROTHER. THE PREVIOUS PILOT.

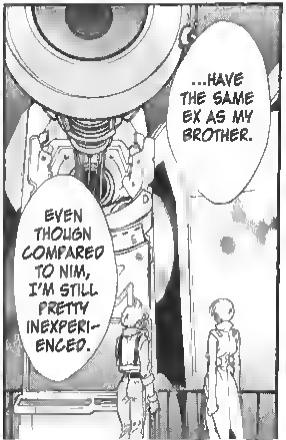

AH.


...YOU WERE NIS BEST PARTNER.
HE TOLD ME.



I'M GOING TO WEAR NIS SUIT AND RIDE HIS INGRID.
BUT ONLY FOR THIS BATTLE.


WHY ...
H-HIS SUIT...


...HAVE THE SAME EX AS MY BROTHER.
EVEN THOUGH COMPARED TO NIM, I'M STILL PRETTY INEXPERI-ENCED.

I...

WHY ...?!

JUST CONDITION

I'M GOING TO FIGHT AS MY BROTHER
!!
WILL YOU FIGHT WITH ME...
...UNTIL THIS BATTLE...
...IS FINALLY OVER?

DIE!!!
UWOO OOOO OOOO OHHHH!!
ALL OF YOU...
...DIE!
GAREAS.....
...RIGHT HERE, GAREAS.
I'M...
WHY, ERNEST?

They're creating an information network communicating through each other's life pulse.
They're walking together choosing a new leader.
Leave Luhma Klein! All Ingrids that can move, to battle!
SO THEY WILL REACH YOU, WHO STILL DO NOT SEE...
FIND ME.

...YOUR WAY OF FIGHTING NOW IS DANGEROUS.
SINCE YOU DIED...
GAH! IT'S TOO EARLY!!
IT'S DANGEROUS?!
WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME?!
TELL ME!! ERNEST!!!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND!!
!!

AFTER THAT...
UWAAAAAH!
STOP, GAREAS!
NO!
THE SAME LIGHT AS NUMBER ONE?!
...IT'S SWALLOWING ME.
AFTER THAT...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. DON'T BE AFRAID.
GAREAS!

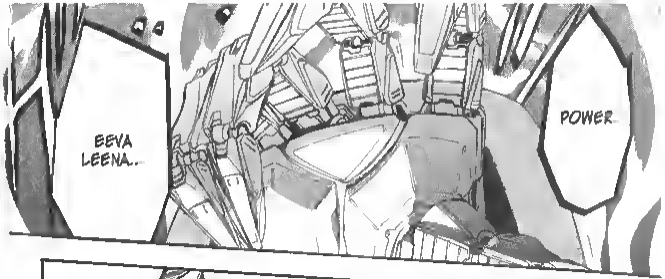
CRACK
...!!
!!!
H-NE'S BREAKING INTO THE HIGHEST ALIGNMENT AREA?!

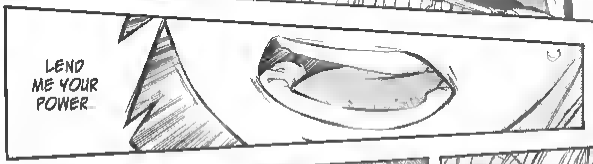
YOU CAN ONLY...
...LOOK AHEAD.
AHEAD...
YES...
"THE FUTURE."
"THE FUTURE."
SO THAT'S IT!

WE'VE BECOME THE SAME.
GAREAS
YOU NEED TO BE AWARE THAT I EXIST.
WELL AWARE.
IT'S STILL RISING!
DON'T TURN AROUND.
YOU... WON'T BE ABLE TO GO BACK.
RISING!

GAR?
BLUE...

JUST CONDITION...


EEVA LEENA..
POWER


LEND ME YOUR POWER

!!

DON'T CRY...
...ELLIA...
HE...
...GOT CLOSE TO YOU.
I UNDER-STAND.

I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO HIM
Ha
Ha
I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING...
Ha
Ha
SOMEONE ESCAPED WITH THE EXPERIMENT!!
IT WAS A RESEARCHER! ID-A2002.
DON'T TELL ME...
KOZUE ENNA...
LEAVE HER...
...ABOUT HIS BIRTH...
23 OMEN
...OR HIS FATHER.
OR ABOUT HOW SOMEDAY IT COULD COME TO THIS.
I KNEW IT...EVEN BACK THEN.
Meanwhile, at G.O.A...
...to fill the vacancy in the top...
...a new, fierce battle is about to begin...

I shouldn't have been able to live away from that colony.

Despite that...

...I dreamed about living with that boy.

BZZZZ

23 OMEN

So when he said he wanted to be a pilot, I didn't stop him.

BZZZZ

Even if I ran away...

...I felt only that my premonition had become reality.

However...
...I can't think this way.
That boy going to you...
CONFIRMED.
GISEISHA'S... ANNIHILATION...
I...wonder if it was destiny.

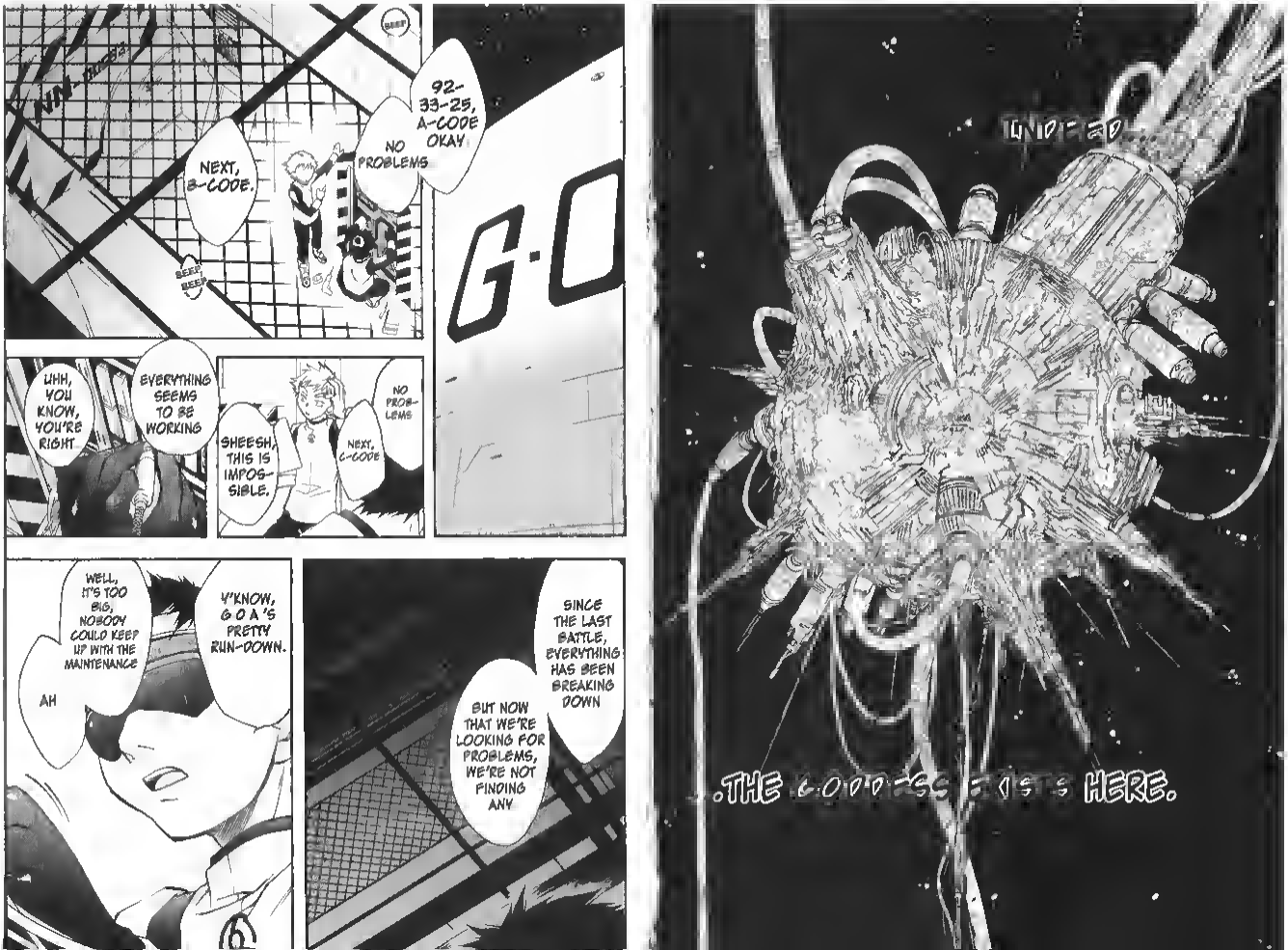
Fifteen years ago I came here with that boy
It seemed then I had very little time left
REI...
REI...
IS IT VENTILATION TIME?
WIND.
...ile I lol. The boy..
There was only one..
That I was his mother.

ROGER.
GATES TWO AND THREE ARE OPEN FOR YOUR RETURN.
I REPEAT...
EH?
YOU THINK SO, TOO, RIGHT, ERTS?!
RIGHT?
WHAT?! DON'T BRING ME DOWN TO YOUR LEVEL!
WHAT WAS THAT? IT'S THE SAME FOR YOU!!
AREA GREEN, GISEISHA ANNIHILATION CONFIRMED.
RETURN TO BASE IMMEDIATELY.
THAT'S JUST YOU!!
THAT'S BOTH OF THEM.
...IT'S BEST TO KEEP THINGS SHORT!
WITH BATTLE AND WITH WOMEN...
Yup yup!
THAT'S A GOOOD THING. I GET WORN OUT JUST BY BEING IN SPACE
TODAY IT WENT FASTER THAN I THOUGHT.

I SEE. THANK YOU
WHAT DO YOU THINK? RENEIGHD KLEIN?
ZERO ...
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID

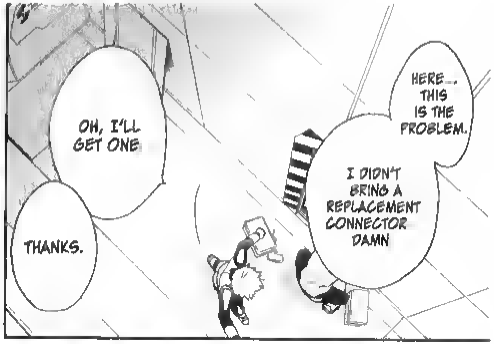
...ARE RIGHT HERE.
...AND THE MEMO-RIES OF PAST PILOTS...
MY BROTHER'S MEMORIES ...
THE GODDESS ISN'T COMING DOWN.

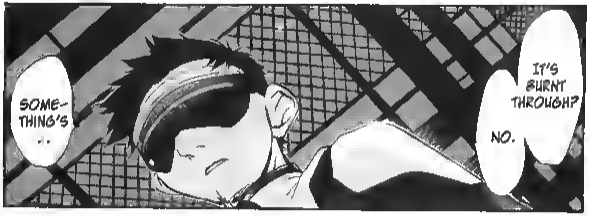
WHAT?! WHAT IF YOU JUST SAY?!
ERTS! YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK TO THAT JERK!
HE MAY BE YOUR SENSEI, BUT SOME-TIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO... WHA-OH!
IT'S LIKE THAT...
SEE! HE AGREES WITH ME.
UH ...
WELL, THAT IS ...
BUT NOT LIKE THAT...
!!!
!!!
...IF THIS MEANS THEY SOMEHOW CARE...
I WON-DER...
IT'S SCARY, SIR...
HE CAN'T CUT THIS STRING— MISSION COMPLETELY.
I FELT A LIFE REACTION JUST BEFORE THE GISEISHA WERE DESTROYED.
.....
BUT WAS IT THE LAST FLICKER OF LIFE?
OR... JUST AN ILLUSION?

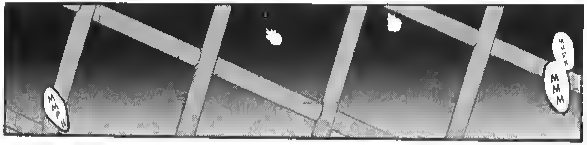

WHIR-RUMBLE
BEEP
NEXT, B-CODE.
92-33-25, A-CODE OKAY
NO PROBLEMS
BEEP BEEP
G-O
UHH, YOU KNOW, YOU'RE RIGHT
EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE WORKING
SHEESH, THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE.
NEXT, C-CODE
NO PROBLEMS
WELL, IT'S TOO BIG, NOBODY COULD KEEP UP WITH THE MAINTENANCE
AH
Y'KNOW, GOA'S PRETTY RUN-DOWN.
SINCE THE LAST BATTLE, EVERYTHING HAS BEEN BREAKING DOWN
BUT NOW THAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR PROBLEMS, WE'RE NOT FINDING ANY
UNIDENTIFIED
THE GOD-SS [illegible] HERE.

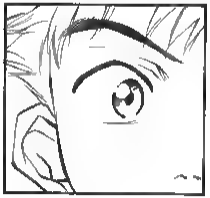
NN-00583
HUH?
NICHOL?

WHAT?


OH, I'LL GET ONE.
THANKS.
I DIDN'T BRING A REPLACEMENT CONNECTOR DAMN
HERE... THIS IS THE PROBLEM.


SOME-THING'S
IT'S BURNT THROUGH?
NO.


MM
MMM



IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD
HEY, NICHOL!

AH!
OH YEAH

AND IT'S ALL...
WILL YOU STOP IT?!
I'M WITH YAMAGI-KUN!!
I FINALLY MADE IT TO LEVEL TWO!! (I'M AN ALTER-NATE!!)
WHY HIM?
IT WAS ONLY NINETY PERCENT ME.
NUH-UH!!
...THANKS TO YOU, WRECKA-CHAN!
HER HANDS WANT SOME-THING
STUPID COUPLE
SHEESH
SPEW.

OH!
I'M SO HAPPY!
BUT...
IT'S YOUR BEING HERE THAT DOES IT TO ME.
YAMAGI-KUN, WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO VIOLENT?
SOB!
BUT YOU, YAMAGI-KUN, YOU'RE MEAN!!
WH-WHY YOU!
QUIT WITH THE FLOWERS CAN'T YOU SEE NOW TENSE I AM?

THIS IS WHERE I FEEL THE MOST RELAXED.
WHAT? I THOUGHT YOU WERE SLEEPING.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
NO WAY.
IMAGE TRAINING.
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S NOT IN HERE.
THAT AGAIN?

WHO IS THIS "SHE"?

DON'T CALL ME YAMA-SAN!
YAMA-SAN!
Y-Y-Y-YOU'RE SCARING ME! WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
WHOOAA?

HELP...
H--
KIZNA?
ZERO ZERO?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?

A-BLOCK'S WINNER!! NUMBER 88: ZERO ENNA!!
HIEAD!!
ALL RIGHT!
B-BLOCK MATCH COMPLETE!!
WINNER...

THE GODDESS.

87
BEEP
MAN, HE REALLY IS INTO IT.
PROBABLY WHY HE'S THE TOP OF THE LEVEL TWO CANDIDATES

AND NOW...
...ZERO AND HIEAD ARE THE TWO TOP LEVEL TWO CANDIDATES.
HIEAD!!!
I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO BEAT YOU, PUNK!

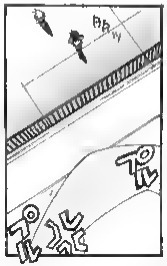
...NUMBER 87...
THE MATCHES TO DECIDE THE TOP OF THE SECOND LEVEL...
HIEAD GNER!!
TESTS TO DECIDE SECOND LEVEL CANDIDATES COMPLETE!
IT'S LIKE HE'S SAYING, "I CAN DO ANYTHING YOU CAN DO."
IF HIEAD DOESN'T GO AFTER ZERO, HE WON'T GET IT.
HIS TOTAL SCORE, HIT POINTS, AND NUMBER OF BLOCKS WERE EXACTLY THE SAME AS ZERO'S
WHICH IS WHAT HE'S DOING
HE WON'T FEEL LIKE HE'S WON

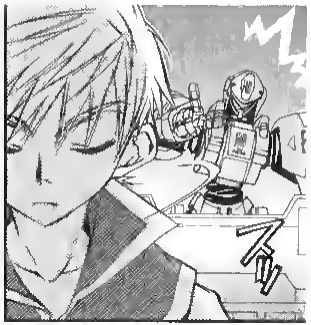
LOOKING AT SPACE...
...MY WORRIES SEEM SO TINY...
...DON'T THEY?!

PEOPLE ARE SAYING IT'S BECAUSE YOUR REPAIRER IS INCOMPETENT!
You're worth-less!
GOD, EVEN ROOSE MADE IT!! (EVEN IF HE'S AN ALTERNATE!!)
LOOK AT YOU YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE STILL ON LEVEL THREE!
THEY MAY SEEM SMALL TO YOU, BUT TO ME THEY'RE AS BIG AS SPACE!!

C'MON, MAN. YOU WANT TO BE A PILOT, RIGHT?!
OR MAYBE YOU DON'T.

YOU GOTTA DO SOME-THING!
THINK ABOUT ME...!





HEY!! DON'T MAKE SUDDEN MOVEMENTS, IT'S DANGEROUS!
HE MAKES ME SO MAD!!

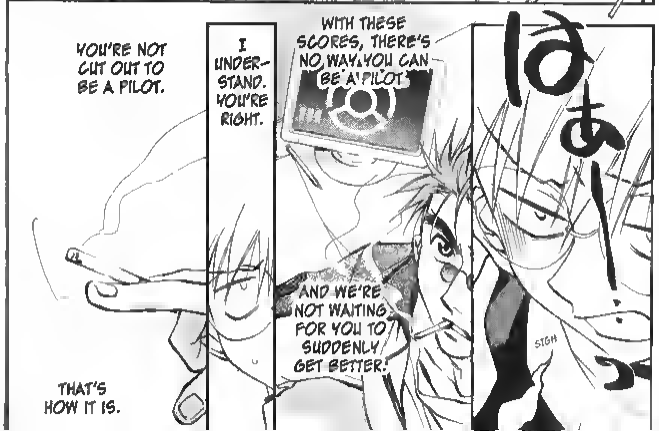
MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T SEE HIM RIGHT NOW!!
HE DOES SUCK.
YEAH, WELL...
You're too rude!
Mmmm

WELL, I'M NOT SURE, BUT...
...HE'S PROBABLY MOPING 'CAUSE HE WON'T MAKE LEVEL TWO
TAP

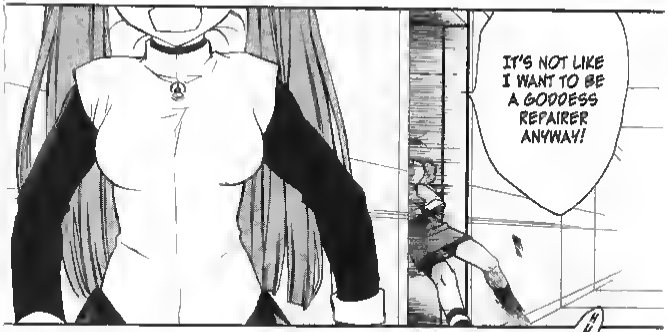
HUH?
OH? HEY, YOU KNOW WHERE CLAY IS?
I DON'T THINK HE'S BEEN PRACTICING MUCH LATELY.

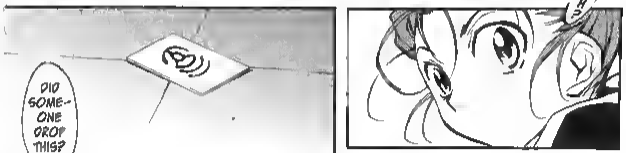
...TO ME, OF ALL PEOPLE?!
YOU WANTED ME TO BE YOUR PARTNER, REMEMBER?!
AND YOU'RE SAYING THAT NOW?
I... SEE.
I'M SORRY..
OH!
I CAN'T!! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!
AAAAHH!
FORGET THAT!! JUST MAKE IT TO LEVEL TWO!!
HAAA
HAAA
SAKI.
I-I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!!
AHN!
YOU'RE SPINELESS! SPINELESS! SPINELESS!!
I GUESS THAT'S WHY YOU'RE LOSING!!
I DUNNO.
AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR...
I'M SURE THE NIGHER UPS WILL ACCEPT IT.
OUR POWERS ARE TOO DIFFERENT.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD PUT IN AN APPLICATION FOR A NEW PARTNER.
I'LL HELP TOO--
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT...
HUH?
I'M SORRY!
D-DON'T HIT ME
AH!!

UNDER-STAND?
YES, SIR.
FIND YOURSELF ANOTHER PATH!!
THAT'S HOW IT IS.
First Staff Room
EXCUSE ME.


YOU'RE NOT CUT OUT TO BE A PILOT.
I UNDER-STAND. YOU'RE RIGHT.
WITH THESE SCORES, THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN BE A PILOT.
AND WE'RE NOT WAITING FOR YOU TO SUDDENLY GET BETTER.
はぁ!
SIGH
THAT'S HOW IT IS.

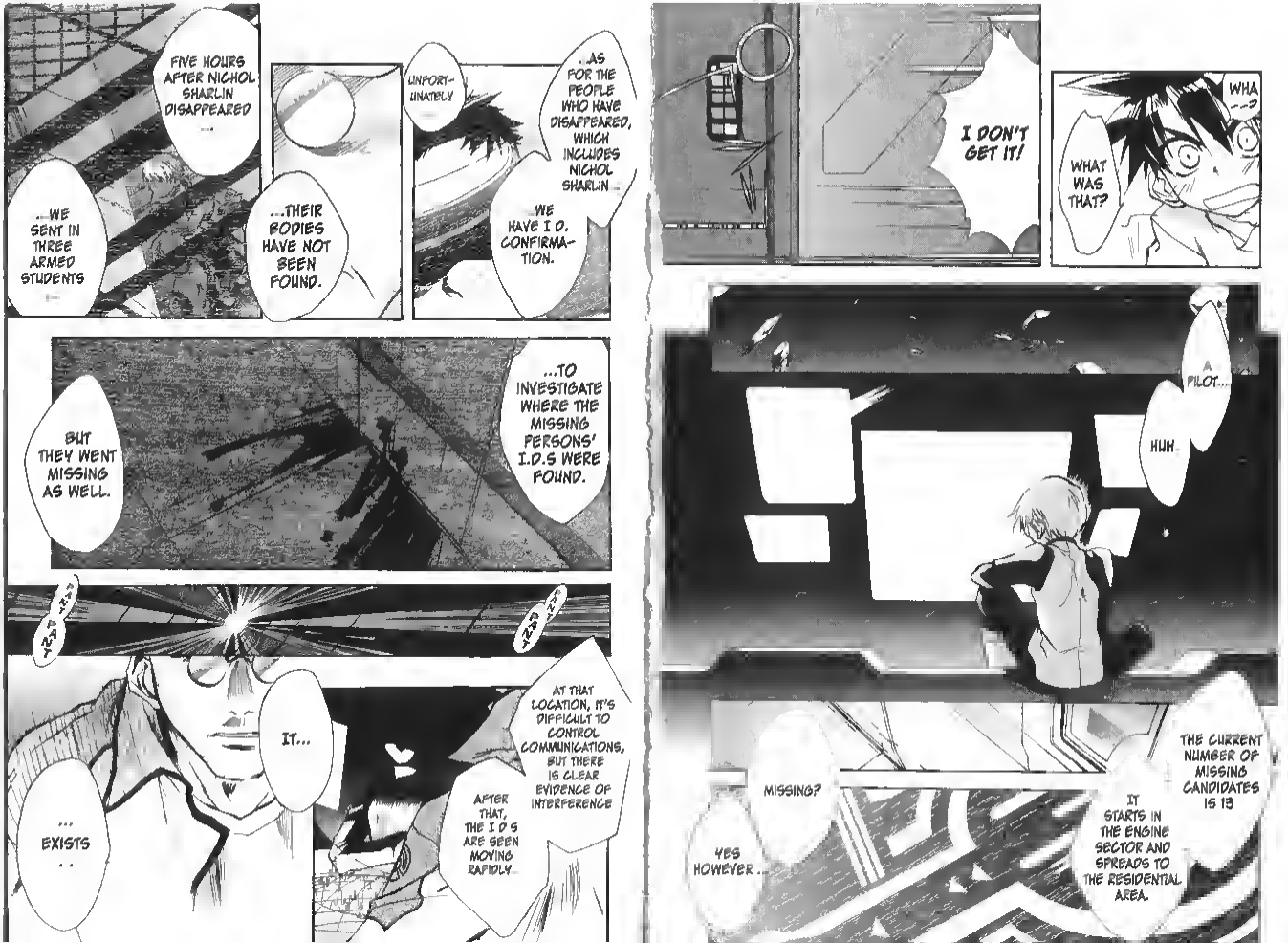
HEY, WAIT!
AH! INSTRUCTOR AZUMA IS CALLING!
SHEESH...
NUMBER 89, CLAY CLIFF FORTRAN.
COME TO THE FIRST STAFF ROOM IMMEDIATELY!


IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO BE A GODDESS REPAIRER ANYWAY!


DID SOME-ONE DROP THIS?
HUH?

ZERO..
IF...
...I'M NOT HERE...
CLAY?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? IT'S LIGHTS OUT!
I NEED TO CALM DOWN!
...FIGHTING WILL GET YOU EXPELLED.
BEEP
..PLEASE REMEMBER.

BEEP
SIGH—
I'M SICK OF OTHER PEOPLE SAYING THEY KNOW MORE ABOUT ME THAN I DO.
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY TO THEM.
I'M HO...
..ME...
THIS ISN'T JUST YOUR ROOM, YOU KNOW!
TH...
SHUT UP!!
WHY YOU--!
HEAD, YOU PUNK --!!


FIVE HOURS AFTER NICHOL SHARLIN DISAPPEARED...
...WE SENT IN THREE ARMED STUDENTS...
...THEIR BODIES HAVE NOT BEEN FOUND.
UNFORTUNATELY...
...AS FOR THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED, WHICH INCLUDES NICHOL SHARLIN...
...WE HAVE I.D. CONFIRMATION.
BUT THEY WENT MISSING AS WELL.
...TO INVESTIGATE WHERE THE MISSING PERSONS' I.D.S WERE FOUND.
WHAT?
IT...
...EXISTS...
AT THAT LOCATION, IT'S DIFFICULT TO CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS, BUT THERE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF INTERFERENCE
AFTER THAT, THE I.D'S ARE SEEN MOVING RAPIDLY...
I DON'T GET IT!
WHA...?
WHAT WAS THAT?
A PILOT...
HUH.
MISSING?
YES HOWEVER...
IT STARTS IN THE ENGINE SECTOR AND SPREADS TO THE RESIDENTIAL AREA.
THE CURRENT NUMBER OF MISSING CANDIDATES IS 13

INSTRUCTOR AZUMA!!
IT'S TARGET IS...!!
IT'S NOT TARGETING THINGS AT RANDOM!!
IT'S INTERFERING WITH THE SYSTEM!
STOP!!
AND THIS IS THE MEMORY FROM THE LAST POINT.
BZZZ
VIC...
BZZZ
AHHH!
WAAAAAAAH!!
UH!
89!!
WHAT...
...IS THIS?

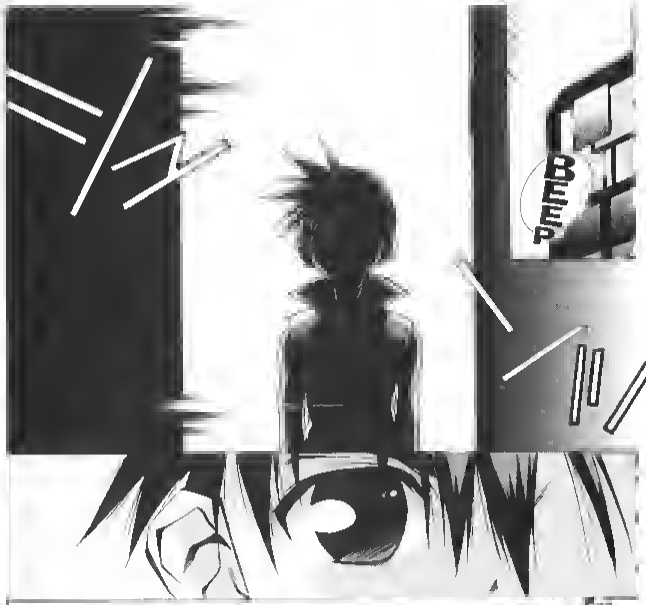
LOOK AT THAT SPEED.
INSIDE G.O.A.?
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
NN-00583, ENGINE SECTOR
WHERE... WHERE DID IT START?
TWELVE HOURS AGO?
ABOUT THREE HOURS AFTER THE GODDESSES FOUGHT?!
THEN THERE ARE MORE I.D.S WHEN THEY START MOVING.
AND EVERY THREE HOURS, THE SIGNALS ARE MOMENTARILY TERMINATED.
THIRTEEN I.D.S IN ONE PLACE?
...WHERE IT STOPS, IT INTERPERES WITH ALL THE SYSTEMS!
AND...
IT'S COMING!

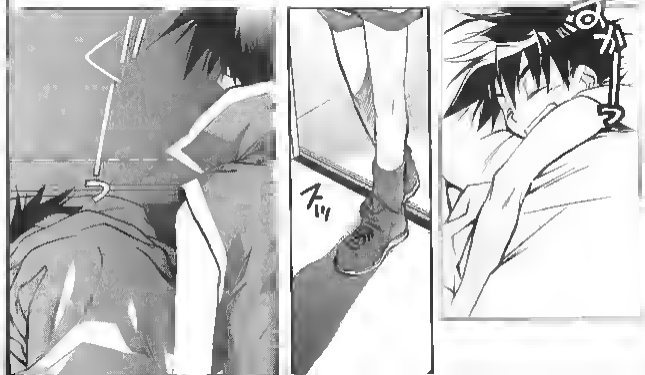
YOU IDIOT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HURRY AND GET OUT OF HERE!
GET DOWN!
I'LL LOWER IT MANUALLY!
CLOSE

AN EXP REACTION?!
I SEE...
...EX IS...
NUMBER 89'S...
HE KNOWS THAT MUCH?
I'M THINKING FROM THE STARTING POINT, NN-00583, FROM ITS FIRST TARGET ..
NICHOL SHARLIN, IT GOT THE ENGINE SECTOR DATA.
SO BASICALLY IT'S GOTTEN A BLUEPRINT OF THE INSIDE OF S.O.A.
IT'S CHOOSING THE ABILITIES IT THINKS ARE NECESSARY TO SURVIVE HERE...
...AND IT'S ABSORBING THEM!
INSTRUCTOR!
IT HAS THE ABILITY TO LEARN.

HURRY UP!! GET UP!!
PRETTY SOON THIS PLACE'LL ...
WHAT ?!
IT.. IT'S DORMANT
IT SEEMS IT CAN'T MOVE LONG, MOST LIKELY BECAUSE OF THE ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE
IT'S TAKEN THIRTEEN PEOPLE, ITS BODY IS ADAPTING TO ENCOMPASS IT.
NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT. IT SHOULD BE GETTING SHORTER.
IT SHOULD BE STOPPING NOW.
ACCORDING TO PAST DATA, IT MOVES FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO AND A HALF HOURS
FIFTY-SIX- FIFTY-SEVEN SECONDS

THE INJURED CELL MADE IT AS FAR AS G.O.A.? HOW?
IT'S G.O.A.
IT'S G.O.A.
WHERE'S TEELA?!
I'VE ALREADY LEFT.
BRRRR
LEFT?!
YEAH
HURRY AND FOLLOW ME
PREPARE FOR BATTLE!!
PILOTS, READY FOR BATTLE!!
ITS NEXT TARGET IS PROBABLY---
GISEISHA CONFIRMED IN AREA BLUE!!
THE LAST RESPONSE I FELT...
...WAS GISEISHA!!
I KNEW IT!!
WHAT'S ITS LOCATION?
THEY SAID AREA BLUE?
YES.
FOLLOW YOU?
THERE'S NO WAY AGUI CAN KEEP UP WITH ERNN.
JUST HURRY!
YEAH, YEAH
SHE'S BEEN THE FIRST TO BATTLE...
...EVER SINCE THAT TIME...


BANG



Star system 21NN,
district 128.
Giseisha...
...K-01 Colony.

BOOM

88
89

YOU SURPRISED ME.
WE HAVE TO HURRY; WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
IS THAT HOW IT IS?

Mark 24 DECOY
GOA
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
THIS IS G.I.S.!
G.O.A. PLEASE RESPOND!
THIS IS G.I.S.!
G.O.A.! PLEASE RESPOND!

WE'RE TO CHANGE COURSE AND HEAD FOR THAT ONE!!
WHA--?!
!!
CHANGE OF ORDERS FROM G.I.S.!
ANOTHER GISEISHA HAS APPEARED!!
WHA...?!
!!
CANDIDATES LEVEL TWO AND HIGHER... I REPEAT...
ASSEMBLE IN THE AREA 30 MEETING ROOM IN FOUR MINUTES!!
CANDIDATES LEVEL TWO AND HIGHER!!
COMMUNICATIONS ARE CUT OFF!! 120 UNTIL RESTORATION!!
THE COMMUNICATION FREQUENCY IS ABOUT TO BE CHANGED!
!!
GISEISHA HAVE APPEARED IN AREA BLUE, INSIDE G.O.A.!!
G.O.A !! PLEASE RESPOND!
GISEISHA !!
IT'S NEAR ZION.
ANOTHER GISEISHA HAS BEEN CONFIRMED!!

FIRST!!
WHAT ARE THEY GONNA DO ABOUT THE ONE ALREADY IN G.O.A.?!
"GO OVER THERE!" "NO, STAY HERE!" STOP CHANGING THE ORDERS!!
WE WON'T MAKE IT FROM HERE!!
YOU'RE KIDDING ME!!
ZERO ...!
WE'LL
THERE ARE EXCELLENT CANDIDATES IN G.O.A.
...WE'LL LEAVE IT TO THEM.
ZERO... PLEASE!!

A BATTLE?
THEY'RE GATHERING THE SECOND LEVEL AND HIGHER.
WHAT?!
ASSEMBLE IN THE AREA 30 MEETING ROOM IN FOUR MINUTES!
I--I KNOW!
ZERO !!
WE'RE GOING TO AREA 30.
YAMAGI!
CLAY'S GONE
CLAY?
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIRD LEVELS.
ROOSE WASN'T IN OUR ROOM, EITHER.

YOUR MISSION IS TO LEAD THE GISEISHA TO ONE OF THESE EXIT POINTS...
...AND THEN BLAST IT OUT INTO SPACE.
ALL RIGHT? DON'T DO ANYTHING ON YOUR OWN!
A LEADER WILL COLLECT INFORMATION FROM EACH CASE AND GIVE IT TO G.O.A. TRAVEL IN GROUPS
WE'LL HAVE TO COMMUNICATE WITHOUT USING WITH G.O.A.'S INTERNAL SYSTEMS.
AND NO MATTER WHAT, DON'T LET IT SPILL INTO THE RESIDENTIAL AREA!!
KEEP THE FIGHTING WITHIN G.O.A. AS MINIMAL AS POSSIBLE
THERE ARE ONLY FIVE SUCH POINTS!!
ACCESSING THEM FROM HERE IS DIFFICULT.
BUT THOSE FIVE POINTS ARE ALREADY THE GISEISHA'S TERRITORY
INSTRUCTOR! CAN'T WE MAKE MORE EXIT POINTS?

WE HAVE LESS THAN AN HOUR BEFORE IT STARTS MOVING AGAIN!
HERE'S THE PLAN!
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION!
THE INVADING GISEISHA IS DORMANT!!
ACCORDING TO PUBLIC DATA FROM G.I.S., THIS GISEISHA IS AN L-TYPE.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF WHAT'S GOING ON IN G.O.A.
ONE WORD OF CAUTION: WE CAN'T EXPECT THE GODDESSES TO HELP!

IT'S EVEN INVADED PART OF G.O.A.'S MAIN SYSTEM.
HE'S GOTTA BE KIDDING
IT'S ALREADY TAKEN 13 CANDIDATES.
IT ABSORBS INFORMATION AND ABILITIES FROM ITS TARGETED PREY.
IT CAN LEARN AND THEN CHANGE FORM.

NOW GO!!
IT HAS INCREDIBLE ADAPTATION ABILITY!
THE GISEISHA DECIDES ON A TARGET AND PREYS UPON IT.
THE TARGETS AREN'T RANDOM!
INSTRUCTOR!!
IN SPACE, MEMBERS OF MANKIND AREN'T CHOSEN LIFE FORMS!!
...BECAUSE THEY WON'T "NOURISH" IT!!
IT WON'T "PREY" ON HUMANS OTHER THAN ITS TARGETS...
IS HIS ABILITY
REALLY THAT POWERFUL?
ITS NEXT TARGET IS PROBABLY...
CHECK YOUR TEAM POSITION ON YOUR MONITORS.
WHEN YOU GET IT INTO SPACE, KEEP SHOOTING UNTIL ITS DESTRUCTION IS CONFIRMED.
NUMBER 84, TEAM F, G.O.A. PERIMETER EJECTION TEAM, 5 AND 24, TEAM F LEADER
NUMBER 83, TEAM C, STAND-YOUTS D & C, G.O.A. HATCH 103, ATTACK THE EJECTED GISEISHA
Ahhh... I knew they'd put me outside
NUMBER 87, TEAM A, STAND-WINSIDE C, G.O.A. HATCH 23, PROTECT THE GUIDING TEAM
PREPARE FOR BATTLE!!
WE HAVE TWENTY MINUTES UNTIL IT WAKES UP!!
FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION!!
HOW COME YOU GET TO BE A LEADER?!
That's not fair!
ALL THE OTHER TEAM LEADERS ARE TOP CANDIDATES!!
LIKE I'D KNOW.
Ask the instructor.

ALL RIGHT!
SHE'S GONE!
BUT SHE'LL BE BACK SOON I HAVE TO HURRY
AND OF COURSE UNIT 38 IS IN EXCELLENT REPAIR
NO MATTER HOW EASY IT IS, I STILL GET NERVOUS HACKING INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S MACHINES.
P-PLEASE DON'T LET HER FIND ME
...I WON'T NEED...TO USE THIS.
I PRAY THAT...
IN-STRUC-TOR !!
HOW ARE WE GOING TO LEAD IT OUT?
WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO CHASE IT AROUND IN PRO-INGS, ARE WE?
...WILL ONLY CHASE A DECOY
GIGEISHA.
OONE! REPAIRS ARE COMPLETE!
KIZNA-SAN!! THEY'RE CALLING ALL THE REPAIRERS TOGETHER!
NO PROBLEM! I'M COMING

THANK GOODNESS... IT STARTED SOMEHOW.
DO I REALLY...
DO I...
...HAVE THAT KIND OF POWER?
WHERE...
...THE HECK...
...AM I SUPPOSED TO FIGHT?
THIRD-INC
ARE YOU OKAY?
YOUR HEART RATE'S GONE WAY UP.
I'M OKAY.
thump
I'LL DO MY BEST.
thump
thump
thump
TEAM A READY FOR BATTLE!
TEAM B READY.
TEAM C READY.
TEAM F IS AT OUR DESIGNATED LOCATION!
WE SHOULD BE GREAT IF WE DON'T LOSE ANY TIME.
TEN SECONDS UNTIL THE GISEISHA WARES UP!!
STARTING COUNT-DOWN!!
TEN!!

STARTING BATTLE!!
THE DECOY IS ON THE MOVE!!
HURRY!!
THERE, TO THE LEFT!! FROM THE THIRD GATE TO POINT D-207!!
SEVEN
NINE!
EIGHT!
SIX...
G·D·A
FIVE SECONDS
FOUR
THREE
TWO.
ONE...

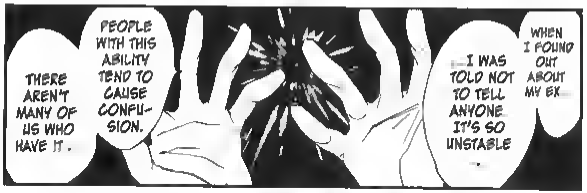
D-206
IT'S LEAVING POINT D-206 AND GOING UP!!
AS EXPECTED, IT'S GOING TO THE 23RD EXIT POINT!!
TEAM A!! SWITCH TO SUPPORT!!
ROGER!!
DECOY CONFIRMED!!
FASTER!!
THE SHUTTER WILL CLOSE IN FIVE SECONDS!!
IN G.O.A., THERE ARE ONE OR TWO STRONG AREAS!!
SHOULD I OPEN THEM?!

No way!
M...ME?!
88?!
ZE... ZERO?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?! DECOY IS IDENTIFIED AS NUMBER 88!!
88 IS RIDING IN 85!!
PRO-ING NUMBER 85!!
THE PILOT IS 85 ..
NO..
NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT!
85?!
ROGSE?!
GUYS, I'M NOT 85.
YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE WRONG GUY! HEY!
I-I-I'M RIGHT HERE!
YEAH! THAT'S RIGHT!
JUST DON'T DO ANYTHING ON YOUR OWN!
SOMEONE
C...
CALM DOWN!
ANSWER ME!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
NUMBER 88!!
WHAT?
IDENTIFYING "DECOY" PILOT...

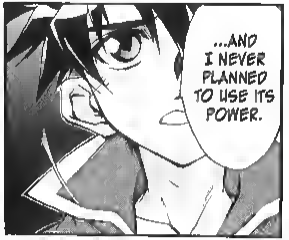
HE'S...NOT HUMAN.
THERE ARE ABOUT 30,000 LOOKS UNTIL THE 34 POINT!!
I'M REWRITING ALL THE CODES THAT IT'S GONE THROUGH
BY LOOKING AT ALL 30,000 ONLY ONCE, HE'LL....!!
NO ONE CAN LOOK UP AND REWRITE THEM ALL IN TIME!
AND IF IT LEARNS EVERYTHING, I WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP IT.
HIS PHYSICAL ABILITIES ARE DEFINITELY DIFFERENT FROM OURS
IT THINKS OF YOU AS ZERO
EVEN IF YOU JUST LOOK LIKE HIM, AN INCOMPLETE COPY IS UNACCEPTABLE
IT'S CLEAR THAT IT'S TARGET ...
IF IT'S NOT THE GISEISHA'S TARGETED PREY, IT WON'T NOURISH THE GISEISHA.
...IS ZERO.
WHY...
...DID 85 GET THIS MISSION?
THAT'S THE ONLY THING.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO RISK THE GISEISHA'S TARGET BY... LETTING HIM ACT AS A DECOY.
...IS AN ORDER.
THIS...
AT THIS RATE, IT'LL GO TO EXIT 23.
YOU SHOULD HAVE ABOUT THIRTY SECONDS
THERE'S SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU
I'M OKAY, SOMEHOW
PANT
ROOSE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
...A LITTLE MORE
PANT
JUST
85

HUH?
AAAAAHHH!!
?!
G.O.A

TO BE ABLE TO TRANSFORM INTO DIFFERENT IMAGES, EVEN TO VARYING DEGREES...
EVEN THE G.O.A.'S MAIN SYSTEM MISREAD YOUR IO.
ROOSE, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD THAT EX.
G.O.A
WAS THAT IT?
EVER SINCE YOUR "SPECIAL TRAINING"...


THERE AREN'T MANY OF US WHO HAVE IT.
PEOPLE WITH THIS ABILITY TEND TO CAUSE CONFUSION.
...I WAS TOLD NOT TO TELL ANYONE IT'S SO UNSTABLE.
WHEN I FOUND OUT ABOUT MY EX...

NEITHER DID I.


...AND I NEVER PLANNED TO USE ITS POWER.

...IS PUTTING MY FRIEND IN DANGER!!
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!!
MY JUDGMENT ...
WAAA
WHAT A--
WAIT!
IT'S BEEN MISLEADING US! FAKING US OUT!
IT BEAT HIM THERE!!
89!!
WE'VE BEEN INVADED!!
I HAVE TO RUN INTERFERENCE FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE!!
BIOOEE

HIYAAAAAAAAHHHH!!
HI...
HIEAD-KUN?!

HIEAD-KUN!!
WHY...
WHY ...
...DID YOU CHOOSE HIM?!
HIEAD-KUN!!
RUN!!
RUN!!
N-NO!
IT'S GISEI-SHA!!
YOU'RE IN THE WAY!!!
GET DOWN!!
!!
ROOSE!! EJECT IT!!
IT'S ON THE CATAPULT!!
HURRY!!

AT THIS RATE...
.. IT'S GOING TO HIT THE AIRLOCK!!
NO!!
NO.
THEY SAID NOT TO MOVE!
ZERO-SEMPAI, WHERE ...?
I THOUGHT I REWROTE ALL THE CODES GISEISHA HACKED!!
WHY WON'T THE EXIT OPEN?!
OPEN!!
OPEN UP!!
...INTO THE AIRLOCK!!
IT'LL CRASH ..
IT CAN'T STOP SUD-DENLY!!
BUT IT'S ALREADY ON THE CATA-PULT!!

ZERO!
HERE IT IS !!
ZE--

WHY YOU...
INSTRUC-TOR!!
THE GISEISHA HAS ZERO!!
I CAN'T SHOOT!!
ALL RIGHT, IT'S IN SPACE!!
COM-MENCE FIRE!!

25 I'LL REMEMBER FOREVER.
ZEROOO!!
INSTRUC-TOR!!
THEY'VE GONE OUT OF THE REPAIRERS' RANGE!!
HIEAO-SAN!!
HIEAO-SAN! ZERO-SAN'S...
ZERO!!
ZERO, ANSWER ME!!
INSTRUC-TOR!!
THEY'VE GONE OUT OF...
...THE REPAIRERS' RANGE!!
NEROOOOOO!

CAN YOU HEAR ME, 89?
EIGHTY-NINE
ZERO!!
ZERO!!
ZERO!! ANSWER ME!!
...ANNIHILATION ...IS...TOP PRIORITY... THAT'S AN ORDER ...
O_KAY, 89
.. LOST COMMUNICATIONS.. YOU'RE THE ONLY...ONE... CAN REACH
INSTRUCTOR!
ANNIHILATION OF GISEISHA TAKES TOP PRIORITY!!
YOU TAKE COMMAND!!
INSTRUC-TOR!!
...OER ...
...ISHA ...
INSTRUC-TOR!!
AND WE CAN'T COMMUNI-CATE WITH THE PRO-INGS..!!
SOME-THING'S WRONG WITH THE MAIN SYSTEM!!
THERE'VE BEEN INJURIES! SEND AN EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUAD!!
INSTRUC-TOR!!
THE FIGHT'S CAUSED MAJOR DAMAGE IN D-204 AND 205!!
OH, GOD FIRE'S BROKEN OUT!!
THE ONLY PLACES WE CAN COMMUNI-CATE WITH ARE POINTS S-201, 27, AND 05!!
TRANS-MISSIONS WON'T REACH THE MAIN CONTROL ROOM!!
COMMUNICATION POINTS S-201, 27, 05!!
S-05
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT

OUR TOP PRIORITY---
---IS ANNIHILATING THE GIGEISHA!
WHA---?!
I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!!
WHAT?! HEY!
SO LISTEN CAREFULLY!
LISTEN TO ME! WE CAN'T EVEN REACH HIM!!
BUT THEY'VE GOT ZEKO!!
HOW CAN I ATTACK?!
JUST AS I WILL.
HE'LL HAVE TO MANAGE ON HIS OWN.

INSTRUCTOR!!
INSTRUCTOR!!
INSTRUCT---!
BLAST...!
HE'S BEEN CUT OFF...!
YAMAGI!!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
CLAY... CLAY?!
!!
...I'M TAKING COMMAND!
LISTEN TO ME. G.O.A.'S COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WAS DESTROYED IN THE FIGHT.

WHAT DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN TRYING TO DO?!
THE DAMAGE IS SO BAD I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM
!
WELL... I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF TAMPERING WITH YOUR MACHINE!
HUH? I THOUGHT I COULDN'T SEND COMMUNI-CATIONS!
CLAY ?!
IS THAT YOU, CLAY ?!
...I'M GOING TO FIND A WAY TO GET AWAY FROM THE GISEISHA!!
RIGHT!! IN A SECOND ...
BUT... WE'LL TALK ABOUT THAT LATER!!
WHEN YOU PUT A LIFE SUPPORT DEVICE IN THERE, I MADE SURE IT WOULD START UP!!
I'M IN!
GO THROUGH!
ZERO!!
PLEASE!!
ZERO!!
HURRY!!
ZERO!! CUT OFF THE PART THAT GISEISHA'S HOLDING ONTO!!

WHAT...
SOMEHOW, BY YOUR OWN POWER...
WHAT...
IN THAT SECOND, ATTACK!!
...AM I SAYING?!
SO!!
...YOU HAVE TO GET THROUGH THIS!!
WHAT AM I...
ANNIHILATING GISEISHA...
...TAKES TOP PRIORITY!
ZERO!!
WHIIIR
GI...
PANT
I...
...I HAVE TO GO!
PANT
.....

...THAT'S MY EX!!
THAT...
HOLDING BACK?!
...WHY AM I...
GOD...
...BUT ALL THE CANDIDATES' STATS ARE IN MY HEAD! YOU CAN DO IT!
MAYBE YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME...
YAMAGI, ONCE I'VE SEEN SOMETHING, I NEVER FORGET IT.
STOP TELLING ME TO DO THINGS THAT ARE IMPOSSIBLE!
I CAN'T DO THAT!
SHOOT ONLY THAT.
HOW CAN YOU JUST WATCH HIM DIE?!
YOU'RE KIDDING ME!
...I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
YAMAGI
NO!!
!!
YOU SEE THE PART OF UNIT 88 THAT'S CONNECTED TO GISEISHA?
IF EVERYONE SHOOTS AT ONCE, ZERO WILL BE DESTROYED WITH THE GISEISHA
MY DATA IS CORRECT
...YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO THIS
YAMAGI, UNDERSTAND THIS--OF ALL THE CANDIDATES HERE...

YAMAGI!!
DO IT!!
GET...
...OFF...
...OF ME!!
MISSION...?
ORDERS...?
ROOSE?!
ZEROOOOOOOO!
YAMAGI!!
THE GISEISHA REACTED?!

HE GOT LOOSE?!
YAMAGI!! FIRE!!

GET AWAY FROM IT!!
HIEAO-KUN?!
HIEAO?!
YOU...!!

ALL RIGHT, ALL UNITS --
FIRE!!
!!
INSTRUC-TOR..
WERE YOU TESTING ME...
BUT...
...THE COMMUNICA-TIONS..
YOU KNEW ROOSE WAS HERE..
YOU ALMOST RISKED ZERO..
BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD ...?
YOU...
YOU GAVE ME THAT ORDER
...THEY CAME BACK MIDWAY!!

89
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
ZERO!
I JUST CAN'T GET USED TO SICKBAY.

NUMBER 89, HURRY UP AND RETURN!
ZIP
WELL DONE.
UNH!
WHY...
WHY ME?
WHY DID HE GIVE ME AN ORDER...
...THAT COULD HAVE KILLED MY FRIEND?

NO... NO WAY...
I'M..
WHY AREN'T YOU HURT?!
YOU.. WHY.. ?
...A "HUMAN" ...
...DOCTOR!
HURT?!
NOTHING HAPPENED, RIGHT?! YOU'RE NOT HURT?!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
YAMAGI!
I SHOT UNIT 88'S RIGHT LEG.
DOCTOR.
GOOD WORK
I...
WE DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING LESS, DOCTOR

CLAY...
IF...I'M NOT HERE...
...FIGHTING WILL GET YOU EXPELLED!
CLAY!
CLAY!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
CLAY!!
HEY!
I SEE. LATER!
AH.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOUR LEG...
HE...
YOU'RE KIDDING
HEY, YAMAGI...
...HAVE YOU SEEN CLAY?
CLAY? I JUST GOT BACK, I DON'T KNOW.
WHY ISN'T HE HURT AT ALL...?
CLA--
CLAY!
CLAY!

YOU'RE GOING TO BE...
...A PILOT?
NO.
I NEVER HAD A CHANCE OF BECOMING A PILOT.
I'M TAKING A DIFFERENT PATH.
I'M GOING UP.
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU'D MOVE TO THAT POSITION.
IN THAT BATTLE...
...YOU LEFT YOUR POST.
BUT...
...THERE IS SOMETHING I CAN DO.
I CAN GO OUTSIDE MYSELF, LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE, THINK ABOUT IT, AND HELP
I DON'T HAVE THAT INSPIRATION...
...OR THAT MOBILITY.

CLAY!!
ZERO
WHERE THOSE CLOTHES.
puff
puff
V...
YOU...
ZERO
I'M SORRY COULD I HAVE JUST TWO MINUTES?
TWO MINUTES

NO...
...ACTUALLY, IT MIGHT ALREADY EXIST.
SOME-DAY.
...A "BEING" WILL APPEAR THAT WILL LEAD "MANKIND" FORWARD.
IF YOU ASK ME...
...THE INGRIDS, THEY...
...MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AS SUCH.

GOODBYE, ZERO.
...WAS REALLY VERY INTERESTING.
THE SHORT TIME I WAS WITH YOU...
ZERO...
I'LL ONLY SAY THIS ONCE
...SO LISTEN CAREFULLY.
AND...
...I CAN KEEP WATCHING YOU ALL.

WE'RE BORN AS INCOMPLETE BEINGS
DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE WE'RE BEING LED BY THE COMPLETE INGRIOS?
HUH? WHAT...
...DOES THAT MEAN?
HOW?
HOW CAN THE INGRIOS FIGHT ON GISEISHA'S LEVEL?
HAVEN'T YOU THOUGHT ABOUT IT?

AND YOU'LL KNOW RIGHT AWAY THAT IT'S ME.
A SIGN ...
IT'S ALL RIGHT
WE'LL MEET AGAIN MANY TIMES
THE DAY MAY COME...
WHEN HE THINKS THAT LETTING GO OF HIS DREAM WOULD BE EASIER.
MAYBE EVEN THE RIGHT THING
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT..
AT ME?
WITH THOSE WOUNDED EYES?
OR
FOR HIMSELF ...
.. AND FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
WHO...?
THE DAY MAY COME..
...WHEN THE ONE WHO "DREAMS" STARTS TO WONDER IF IT'S ACTUALLY HIS OWN WILL.
YOU...
WHO ARE YOU?

I'M GOING TO THE PLACE THAT'S CLOSEST TO THE ANSWER.
SO, ZERO...
SHOW ME THE ANSWER.
CLAY!
I'M SORRY.
89!
CLAY
...ASKED YOU IF YOU'VE EVER FELT THAT YOU COULDN'T FORGET
I'VE ALREADY ...
I'M SURE THEY'RE THE SAME
... ZERO ...
THE "TRUTH" THAT STILL SLEEPS INSIDE YOU...
THE FUTURE OF THIS WOUNDED WORLD?
NUMBER ONE!! OVER HERE!!
WHAT IS THE TRUTH?
THE "TRUTH" THAT I'VE COME TO REALIZE...
...AND...

IN THE END, I MAY NOT KNOW WHICH MEMORIES ARE MOST IMPORTANT.
I'M SURE FROM NOW ON THEY'LL FLOW INSIDE ME WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION
IMPORTANT MEMORIES, THINGS I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER
BACK THEN, YOU SAID...
...THAT THERE ARE THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO FORGET.
I...
BUT..
...I KNOW...
...UNTIL THE VERY END, I...
...THAT I DON'T WANT TO FORGET YOU GUYS!

SAKI...
I DON'T GET IT!!
HIS GLASSES, YOU KNOW?
BOTH HIS EYES HAD ATMIC. THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH HIS EYESIGHT.
HE WORE THE GLASSES TO HIDE IT THEY WERE IMPORTANT TO HIM

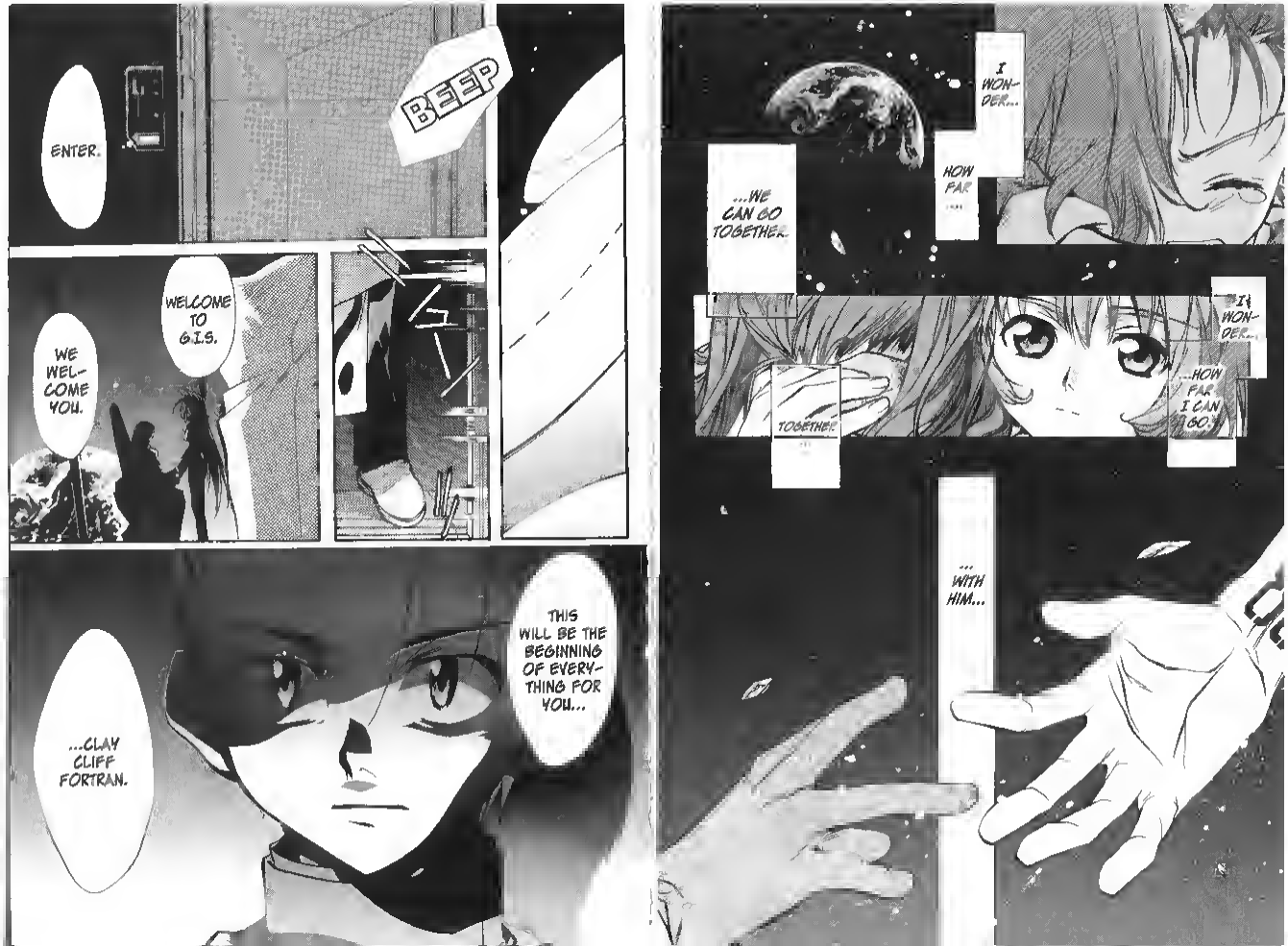
SO IMPORTANT THAT HE KEPT FIXING THEM SO HE COULD WEAR THEM.
BUT, TO HIM, THEY WERE VALUABLE.
I DON'T NEED THEM.
THEY HAVE NO VALUE TO ME
HE SAID I COULD HAVE THEM.

SAKI...
I COULD HAVE THEM...
AND HE SAID... I COULD HAVE THEM..

SAKI...
WHOOSH

HE NEVER HAD A CHANCE OF BEING A PILOT.
IT'S A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT, GOING TO G.I.S.

SAKI...
THOSE...
BUT, Y'KNOW, I DIDN'T REALLY CARE ABOUT BEING A REPAIRER.
I WANTED TO BE AN INSTRUCTOR.


ENTER.
BEEP
WELCOME TO G.I.S.
WE WEL-COME YOU.
THIS WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF EVERY-THING FOR YOU...
...CLAY CLIFF FORTRAN.
I WON-DER...
HOW FAR ...
...WE CAN GO TOGETHER...
I WON-DER...
...HOW FAR I CAN GO...
TOGETHER
...WITH HIM...

STAFF
MAMORU KURESAKI
ISHIDA HIRATA
&
All that collaborated to produce
the works of various media
on THE CANDIDATE FOR GODDESS.

YOU ARE THE FINAL OBSERVER...
...TO THE END OF ENDLESS HISTORY.
To Be Continued Next Volume.....?

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the Candidate for Goddess™

While Zero and the rest of the candidates progress to Class Two, Clay faces the harsh truth: He does not seem to be pilot material, and expulsion is a very real possibility. Meanwhile, some students at G.O.A. mysteriously go M.I.A. Are the disappearances linked with the most recent Giseisha attack?

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